

R E M A R K S

This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on July 15, 2003. Claims 32, 33, 37, 38, 40, and 69 have been amended to improve their form. Claim 23 has been amended to be generic to claim 33. No new matter has been introduced. Claims 23-74 are pending in this application.

It is noted that the present Office Action is the third requirement for restriction in this application! Action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Applicants must elect one of the specific guanidine or tetrazole fuels, the metal of the basic metal nitrate, the binder, the slag forming agent, the combustion improving agent, the other oxidizing agent, and the desired form of the molded article. In response to this requirement for election of species, Applicants elect as the fuel component (a) guanidine nitrate, as the basic metal nitrate (b) basic copper nitrate, as the binder and/or slag forming agent (c) sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, as the optional combustion improving agent (d) its absence, as the optional other oxidizing agent its absence, and as the desired form of the molded article a single-perforated cylinder. Claims 23, 24, 29, 30, 33, 34, 39, 40, 67, 68, and 72-74 read on the elected species.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Richard Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781) at (703) 205-8008.

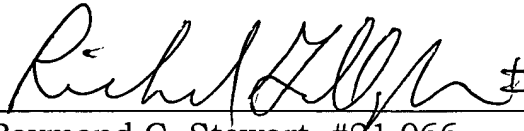
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit

Appl. No. 09/914,548

Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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